

THIRD COLLEGE EDITION

Webster's New World Dictionary®

OF AMERICAN ENGLISH

VICTORIA NEUFELDT

Editor in Chief

DAVID B. GURALNIK

Editor in Chief Emeritus

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*Dedicated
to David B. Guralnik
lexicographical mentor
and friend*

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period of time, as at a racetrack *4 [Colloq.] a person's name, nickname, or title *vt. died -ing [ME *handlien* < OE *handlian*] 1 to touch; lift etc. with the hand or hands 2 to manage, control, or use with the hands or hands; manipulate 3 to manage, control, direct, train, etc. 4 to deal with or treat in a particular way /to handle a problem tactfully/ b) to deal with successfully or appropriately 3 [Colloq.] to come to terms with psychologically (he can't handle it) *5 to sell or deal in (a certain commodity) 6 to behave toward; treat -vt. to respond or submit to control (the car handles well) *5 to fill the handle [Colloq.] to become suddenly or violently angry or excited -get a handle on [Colloq.] to find a means of dealing with understanding, etc. **SYN** -handle implies the possession of sufficient (or a specified degree of) skill in managing or operating with or as with the hands (/to handle a tool or a problem/; manipulate suggests skill, dexterity, or craftiness in handling /to manipulate a machine or an account/; wield implies skill and control in handling effectively /to wield an axe, to wield influence/; ply suggests great diligence in operating /to ply an oar, to ply one's trade/)

handle-bar (han'dl bär) *n.* 1 [often pl.] a curved or bent metal bar with handles on the ends, for steering a bicycle, motorcycle, etc. *2 [Colloq.] *n.* mustache with long, curved ends, resembling a handlebar: in full, handlebar mustache

handler (hand'ler) *n.* a person or thing that handles; specif., a) a boxer's trainer and second b) a person who trains and manages a horse, dog, etc. in a show or contest

handless (hand'lis) *adj.* 1 not having any hands 2 [Dial.] inept, clumsy, or awkward

hand-made (hand'maid) *adj.* made by hand, not by machine; made by a process requiring manual skills

hand-maiden (hand'maid'n) *n.* 1 [Archaic] a woman or girl servant or attendant 2 that which accompanies in a useful but subordinate capacity /law is the handmaiden of justice/ Also **hand'maid'**

hand-me-down (hand'mə doun) *n.* [Colloq.] something, esp. an article of clothing, which is used and then passed along to someone else -*adj.* [Colloq.] 1 used; secondhand 2 ready-made and cheap

hand-off (hand'of) *n.* Football an offensive maneuver in which a back, esp. the quarterback, hands the ball directly to another back

hand organ a barrel organ played by turning a crank by hand

hand-out (hand'out) *n.* 1 a gift of food, clothing, etc., as to a beggar 2 a pamphlet, leaflet, etc. handed out as for publicity or information 3 NEWS RELEASE

hand-pick (hand'pik') *vt.* 1 to pick (fruit or vegetables) by hand 2 to choose with care or for a special purpose, as to gain an advantage -**hand-picked** *adj.*

hand-rail (hand'rel') *n.* a rail serving as a guard or support to be held by the hand, as along a staircase or ramp

hand-running (hand'rūn'ing) *adv.* [Colloq. or Dial.] in succession; without break or interruption Also **hand running**

hand-saw (-saw) *n.* a saw held in one hand and operated manually: see SAW, **FILE**

hand's-breadth (hand's brɛdθ) *n.* **HANDBREADTH**

hand-sel (hand'sel, han'sol) *n.* [ME *handsele* < OE (rare) *handsele*, a giving into hand < ON *handsl*, sealing of a bargain by a handclasp (transl. of L *mancipatio*: see **MANCIPATION**), both < *hand* < IE base of **SEAL**] 1 a present for good luck, as at the new year or on the launching of a new business 2 [Rare] a) a first payment or first installment b) the first money taken in by a new business or on any day of business 3 the first use or specimen of anything, regarded as a token of what is to follow -*vt.* -seld or -selled, -seting or -setting [ME *handsele* < ON *handseifa*] 1 to give a handsel to 2 to begin or launch with ceremony and gifts 3 to use, do, etc. for the first time

hand-set (hand'set) *n.* a telephone mouthpiece, receiver, and dial or push buttons in a single unit, for holding in one hand

hand-shake (-shak') *n.* a gripping and shaking of each other's hand in greeting, farewell, agreement, etc.

hands-off (handz'of) *adj.* designating or of a policy, attitude, etc., of not interfering or intervening

hand-some (han'səm, hand'-) *adj.* [orig., easily handled, convenient < ME *handsum*: see **HAND** & **SOME**] 1 o [Now Rare] moderately large b) large; impressive; considerable /a handsome sum/ 2 generous; magnanimous; gracious /a handsome gesture/ 3 good-looking; of pleasing appearance: said esp. of attractiveness that is manly, dignified, or impressive rather than delicate and graceful /a handsome lad, a handsome chair/ -**SYN**. **BEAUTIFUL** -**hand-somely** *adv.* -**hand-someness** *n.*

hands-on (handz'ŏn) *adj.* designating or of an activity, training, etc. in which one participates actively

hand-spike (hand'spik') *n.* [altered (by assoc. with **SPIKE**) < Du *handspike* (modern Du *handspook*) < *hand*, hand + *spoke*, rod, pole] a heavy bar used as a lever, as in turning a capstan

hand-spring (-spring) *n.* a tumbling feat in which the performer turns over in midair with one or both hands touching the ground

hand-stamp (-stamp) *n.* 1 **HANDS STAMP** 2 a rubber stamp used to postmark stamps: *vt.* to postmark (a stamp) with a handstamp

hand-stand (-stand) *n.* 1 a gymnastic feat of supporting oneself upside down on the hands with the body held vertically

hand-to-hand (hand'tu hand') *adj.* in close contact; at close quarters: said of fighting

hand-to-mouth (-mouth) *adj.* characterized by the necessity of

at, ate, cāt, cut, ēwe, is, ice, gō, hōrn, look, tool, oil, out, up, up, *a for unstrutted* usual, or *ago, in, focus, ' as in Latin*
lab' n; chit, sh; zh: as in azure (ash'ar) thin, *the* o as in ring (rin)
In etymology: - = untested; < = derived from; > = from which
* = Americanism
See inside front and back covers

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